

### REMARKS

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Sasaki. The Office Action states that Sasaki overlaps the compositional range defined in claims 1 and 19. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, and submit that the compositional ranges of the claimed invention and that of Sasaki do not overlap.

Figure A, attached herewith, shows a triangular diagram comparing the composition of the claimed invention with that of Sasaki. From Figure A, Applicants submit it is evident that the compositional range of current claim 1 is distinct from the compositional range of Sasaki. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-20 stand separately rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shigehiro in view of Sasaki. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Shigehiro teaches a composition  $\text{Co}_{100-x-y-z}\text{Fe}_x\text{M}_y\text{O}_z$ , and further discloses the compositional range represented as  $15 < x+y+z < 65$  for the magnetic film. Applicants submit that in order to meet this restriction, it is necessary to set the composition represented in the area shown in attached Figure B. Because the relationship  $\text{Co} + \text{Fe} = 100 - y - z$  holds according to Shigehiro, Applicants submit that the triangular representation of Figure B holds, similarly to the triangular representation of Figure A. Applicants submit that in the shaded region of Figure B, any of X, Y and Z cannot exceed 65%.

Comparing the compositional range of the claimed invention as represented in Figure A, Applicants submit that there is no overlap of composition between the invention of claims 1 and 19 and Shigehiro. Further, Applicants submit that it is not possible to derive the composition of claims 1 and 19 from Shigehiro even when Sasaki is combined with Shigehiro.

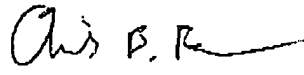
Thus, Applicants submit that current claims 1 and 19 are distinct over the compositions of Sasaki, Shigehiro, or their combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that this case is in

condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should call Applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By   
Arik B. Ranson  
Registration No. 43,874  
Attorney for Applicants

November 14, 2003

300 S. Wacker Drive - Suite 2500  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6501  
Telephone: (312) 360-0080  
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315  
Customer No. 24978



Figure B

